

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 26, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PHELPS made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of William Shippen, report :

The petitioner represents himself as the grandson and sole heir of Dr. William Shippen, deceased, and states "that on the 23d of June, 1777, an outstanding final certificate was issued from the loan office to the said William Shippen for the sum of five hundred dollars, loaned by the said William Shippen to the continental government of the United States;" "that he believes the said certificate has never been assigned to any other person;" that it is lost, &c.

The only evidence exhibited to the committee is the following certificate from the Register of the Treasury :

"On examining the books of this office, I find there is outstanding final settlement certificate No. 734, issued June 23d, 1777, to William Shippen, for five hundred dollars, and that the specie value thereof at that time was five hundred dollars.

" R. H. GILLET."

There is no other evidence of the certificate having been in the possession of said William Shippen, nor any proof of its loss. The petition is dated February 4, 1846.

The committee regard this evidence as wholly insufficient, after the lapse of nearly seventy years, to sustain the claim. It is evident that the memorialist knows nothing of the matter; and the fact that the claim is started at this late period, can only be accounted for by the supposition that some person having access to the books of the treasury—perhaps some clerk in the department, who has since turned speculator in these claims—having discovered the apparent state of this certificate, has set about to turn the entry to account. The committee are well aware that most of these revolutionary claims have their origin in the practice alluded to, and that but for this practice, not one in ten would be heard of. They therefore recommend the following resolution :

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition be rejected.

Ritchie & Heiss, print.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 26, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PIERCE made the following

REPORT:

Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of William Shippen, report:

A petitioner represents himself as the grandson and sole heir of Dr. William Shippen, deceased, and states "that on the 23d of June, 1777, an indentured certificate was issued from the loan office to the said William Shippen for the sum of five hundred dollars, loaned by the said William Shippen to the continental government of the United States;" "that since the said certificate has never been assigned to any other person;" "that the said certificate is lost, &c."

The only evidence exhibited to the committee is the following certificate from the Register of the Treasury:

"In examining the books of this office, I find there is outstanding an indentured certificate No. 734, issued June 23d, 1777, to William Shippen, for five hundred dollars, and that the specie value thereof at that time was five hundred dollars."

"R. H. GILLET."

There is no other evidence of the certificate having been in the possession of said William Shippen, nor any proof of its loss. The petition is referred to the committee.

The committee regard this evidence as wholly insufficient, after the lapse of nearly seventy years, to sustain the claim. It is evident that the memorialist knows nothing of the matter; and the fact that the claim is stated in a late period, can only be accounted for by the supposition that some person, having access to the books of the treasury—perhaps some clerk in the department, who has since turned speculator in these claims—having observed the apparent state of this certificate, has set about to turn the same to account. The committee are well aware that most of these revolutionary claims have their origin in the practice alluded to, and that but a practice, not one in ten would be heard of. They therefore recommend the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition be rejected.

Attest, &c.